

U.I.P. JC10
FEB 13 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Z.Q. Xia et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WSUR116430

Application No.: 09/673,918

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: January 2, 2001

Examiner: Y.D. Pak

Title: RECOMBINANT SECOISOLARICIREBINOL
DEHYDROGENASE, AND METHODS OF USE

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FEB 24 2004

AMENDMENT B AND RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

February 10, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

REMARKS

In view of the arguments that follow, and the enclosed Declaration of Norman G. Lewis, applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claims 8-9 and 20

The Examiner objects to Claims 8-9 and 20 for being drawn to non-elected products, *i.e.*, the DNA molecules having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS:3, 5, 7 and 9, and DNA molecules encoding proteins having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS:4, 6, 8 and 10. For the reasons set forth in the response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants traverse this aspect of the Examiner's restriction requirement, and reserve the right to petition for review of the requirement when the substantive issues related to patentability have been resolved.

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